In the Claims

1. (Amended) A method for authorizing access to computer applications using a computer installation which includes a computer station connected to an inter-computer communication network, a read unit in communication with the computer station, and at least one portable object provided with a personalized electronic circuit ~~having~~ which includes first signal transmission and reception means[,] and a storage means for access words to computer applications, said access words being kept secret by a read and /or write barrier, said ~~electronic circuit~~ storage means having a memory ~~including~~ which includes at least one readable verification word, the read unit having second signal transmission and reception means for communicating with the portable object when the latter is located within a determined detection zone of the read unit, wherein the method includes the steps of:

a) placing the portable object within the determined detection zone of the read unit so that the read unit detects its presence, reads via the first and second signal transmission and reception means the readable verification word of the ~~circuit~~ memory of the storage means, and gives the instruction to the computer station to connect itself automatically to the communication network for sending the readable verification word toward a checking file of a determined server ~~for sending the readable word~~ in the communication network,

b) searching in the checking file of the determined server to see whether the readable verification word is included in a list of authorised words,

c) only if the readable verification word has been found in the list, sending from the checking file of the determined server a password towards the computer station and the read unit, said password being addressed via the first and second transmission and reception means to storage means of said electronic circuit of the portable object to open the read and/or write barrier, and

d) communicating via said first and second transmission and reception means the access words contained in the storage means of the electronic circuit of the portable object to the computer station in order to authorised said computer applications to be opened.

2.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the storage means for the access words to the applications are included in the memory of the electronic circuit of the portable object.

3.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the storage means for the access words to the applications are included in the determined memory.

4.(Original) A method according to any of claims 2 and 3, wherein the addresses of the computer applications to be opened using access words are contained in the storage means.

5.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the addresses of the computer applications to be opened using access words are provided to the computer station by the server on the communication network.

6.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the read unit is a peripheral unit connected to the computer station for the supply of electric power and for the mutual transfer of data and/or commands.

7.(Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the link between the computer station and the read unit is assured by an electric cable or an optical fibre, secured to the read unit and able to be connected to a corresponding input socket of the station for the electric power supply of the read unit and the transfer of data and/or commands between the unit and the station.

8.(Original) A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the communication signals between the read unit and the portable object are magnetic or electromagnetic or optical or acoustic signals.

9.(Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the electric circuit with the first transmission and reception means is a transponder having a coil for receiving and transmitting radio-frequency signals for communicating with the read unit.

10.(Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the electric power supply of the transponder is provided using the radio-frequency signals received from the read unit.

11.(Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the radio-frequency signals are amplitude modulated for the transmission of data and/or commands.

12.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the portable object is a watch or a bracelet or a necklace or a ring or a card or a badge.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, 6 and 7, wherein the read unit is entirely integrated in a mouse pad or a keyboard of the computer station.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the read unit is integrated in a peripheral case to the work station, the electric cable or the optical fire being secured to said case.

15.(Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein an antenna of the second transmission and reception means of the read unit is integrated in a mouse pad or in a keyboard of the computer station connected to the peripheral case.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the memory of the electronic circuit includes several readable words which are sent to the checking file, and wherein in step b), two additional verification words are calculated using an algorithm in the checking file one of said words being searched in the checking file in order to know whether it is authorised, said additional verification words being stored on their return in the electronic circuit of the portable object in the readable portion of the memory.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the memory of the electronic circuit includes several readable words which are sent to the checking file, and wherein in step b), two additional verification words are calculated using an algorithm in the checking file one

of said words being searched in the checking file in order to know whether it is authorised, said additional verification words being stored on their return in the electronic circuit of the portable object in the readable portion of the memory.

18. (Amended) A peripheral read unit intended to be in communication with a computer station, in particular for implementing the method according to claim 1, wherein it includes signal transmission and reception means in order to be able to communicate with a portable object provided with a personalized electronic circuit having other signal transmission and reception means when the latter is located within a determined zone.

19. (Original) A read unit according to claim 18, wherein at least a portion of the read unit is integrated in a case or in a computer keyboard or in a mouse pad.

20. (Original) A read unit according to claim 18, wherein it is completely integrated in a mouse pad or in a computer keyboard, and wherein the signal transmission and reception means in order to be able to communicate with a portable object provided with a personalized electronic circuit having other signal transmission and reception means when the latter is located within a determined zone.

21. (Amended) A device for authorizing access to computer applications, ~~in particular~~ for implementing the method according to claim 1, including a portable object provided with a personalized electronic circuit having first signal transmission and reception means, and a peripheral read unit having second signal transmission and reception means for communicating with the portable object when the latter is located within a determined detection zone of

the read unit, the read unit being in communication with a computer station.

22. (Original) A device according to claim 21, wherein the portable object is a wristwatch, wherein the electronic circuit of the watch is a transponder, and wherein the read unit is connected by an electric cable or an optical fibre to a corresponding input socket of a computer station for the electric power supply and transfer of data and/or commands between the unit and the station.